


Japan Calling

☐ A quarterly newsletter from the Embassy of Japan in India 



Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, held the 10th Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with H.E. Ms. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India, during his visit to India, on 7th January.

(Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)

CONTENTS

➤ Foreign Minister Kono Visits India	2	➤ STS Forum 4th India-Japan Workshop Convenes	7
➤ India-Japan Friendship Forum Launched	2	➤ Japan Further Contributes to Health Sector	8
➤ The Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region Inaugurated	3	➤ Ambassador Hiramatsu Visits Karnataka	9
➤ IRIS Program: Ambassador Encourages 24 Young Talents from North Eastern Region Visiting Japan	3	➤ Ambassador Hiramatsu Visits Gujarat	10
➤ Senior Deputy Foreign Minister Visits India	4	➤ An Evening of Japanese Food Held	11
➤ Delhi Metro Extends	4	➤ Ambassador Hiramatsu Visits the North East	12
➤ 3rd Japan-India Tourism Council Held	5	➤ Honda Y-E-S Award Ceremony Held	13
➤ Ambassador Hiramatsu Visits Maharashtra	5	➤ Japanese Ambassador Hosts Conferment Ceremony of Decoration on Professor Manjushree Chauhan	13
➤ Mr. Kanwar Felicitated on Decoration	6	➤ 17th Graduation Ceremony of MOSAI Institute of Japanese Language Held	14
➤ 2nd Food Dialogue Held	6	➤ 31st All India Japanese Language Speech Contest Held	14
➤ Japan Participates in Tamil Nadu & West Bengal's Investor Meets	7	➤ Updates from Consulates	15
		➤ Exploring Japan: Summer Fun in Japan	19

Foreign Minister Kono Visits India

From 7th to 9th January, Foreign Minister Taro Kono visited India for the first time as Foreign Minister of Japan. During the visit, FM Kono and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj held the 10th Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue. Furthermore, FM Kono made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Modi, among other engagements.

For further information: https://www.mofa.go.jp/s_sa/sw/in/page1e_000254.html

https://www.mofa.go.jp/s_sa/sw/in/page1e_000255.html



(Photos: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)

India-Japan Friendship Forum Launched

On 8th January, the Launching Event of India-Japan Friendship Forum (IJFF) was held, with the presence of Japanese Foreign Minister Mr. Taro Kono and Indian Union Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu. IJFF is expected to enhance people-to-people linkages between Japan and India through organizing various engagements in the field of art, culture, academics, tourism, among others.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

The Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region Inaugurated

On 22nd December, the Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region, in Gurugram, Haryana, was inaugurated by the Hon. Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman.

Ambassador Hiramatsu attended the inauguration and had interactions with Defence Minister Sitharaman and Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba, to further strengthen the cooperation in maritime domain between Japan and India.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

IRIS Program: Ambassador Encourages 24 Young Talents from North Eastern Region Visiting Japan

On 25th January, Ambassador Hiramatsu had an interaction with 24 young talents from the North Eastern Region, heading to Japan later the same day. The group visited Japan under the IRIS Program, a youth invitation program by the Government of Japan, which invites promising young talents from the North Eastern Region of India. This is the second delegation under the Program, which was launched by Ambassador Hiramatsu at the commemoration of the 73rd anniversary of the Battle of Imphal.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Senior Deputy Foreign Minister Visits India

Mr. Kazuyuki Yamazaki, Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, visited Delhi on 20-21 December 2018. He co-chaired the 5th meeting of the Joint Committee, formed under the Japan-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), with Mr. Anup Wadhawan, Commerce Secretary of India, on 21st December. The meeting was succeeded by the 9th Japan-India Strategic Economic Dialogue, jointly chaired by Mr. Subhash Garg, DEA Secretary of the Ministry of Finance of India.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Delhi Metro Extends

On 31st December 2018, the Delhi Metro Rail Project (Phase 3) comprising the section of Pink Line between Lajpat Nagar and Mayur Vihar Pocket 1 (9.63 km), with 5 stations, was inaugurated. The project was realized through Japan's active support for the Delhi Metro, through Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loans as well as Japanese railway technologies and safety management. Ambassador Hiramatsu celebrated the inauguration of this section at the inauguration ceremony, along with the Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hon. Hardeep Singh Puri, and the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Hon. Manish Sisodia.



(Photo: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

3rd Japan-India Tourism Council Held

On 11th January, the 3rd India-Japan Tourism Council & Summit was held with a view to expanding tourism exchanges between Japan and India. The meeting was attended by Indian and Japanese representatives, such as the Secretary of Tourism, Mr. Yogendra Tripathi, the Commissioner of Japan Tourism Agency, Mr. Hiroshi Tabata, members of Japan International Tourism Organization, Japan Association of Travel Agents, and so forth. Ambassador Hiramatsu alluded to the valuable tourism resources that both countries boast of, and emphasized the need for the two countries to take concrete actions following the meeting.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Ambassador Hiramatsu Visits Maharashtra

Ambassador Hiramatsu visited Maharashtra on 15-16 January. On 15th January, Ambassador Hiramatsu participated in the Global Aviation Summit 2019 in Mumbai. Ambassador Hiramatsu shared the efforts and challenges of the Japanese government in the civil aviation and aerospace sector, during the Ministerial Plenary. On the sidelines of the event, Ambassador Hiramatsu met with the Minister of Civil Aviation (and Commerce & Industry), Hon. Suresh Prabhu, along with Japanese airliners, aircraft manufacturers, and so forth. On 16th January, Ambassador Hiramatsu met the new Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Mr. Shaktikanta Das, to exchange ideas on the current economic and financial landscape.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Mr. Kanwar Felicitated on Decoration

On 16th January, Ambassador Hiramatsu hosted a ceremony to felicitate Mr. Onkar S. Kanwar, Chairperson of the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee and that of Apollo Tyres, on receiving the Decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star. Ambassador Hiramatsu acknowledged Mr. Kanwar's service to the bilateral economic relations, enriching the discussion toward the promotion of trade and investment between the two countries. Mr. Kanwar since the 1970s has promoted Japanese companies' entry to the Indian market and the introduction of Japanese corporate management styles in India, encompassing kaizen philosophy, social responsibility, and so forth.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

2nd Food Dialogue Held

On 21st January, the 2nd Japan-India Food Dialogue was held. Ambassador Hiramatsu had a discussion with the Indian delegation represented by Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Ms. Pushpa Subrahmanyam, along with 11 leading Japanese food and cold-chain companies. During the dialogue, the Japanese food and cold-chain companies made presentations on their respective technologies and consulted with the Indian officials on developing cold chains in India.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Japan Participates in Tamil Nadu & West Bengal's Investor Meets

Ambassador Hiramatsu attended investors' summits hosted by the state governments in January and February.

On 23rd January, Japan participated in the Tamil Nadu Global Investors' Meet 2019 in Chennai, as a partner country. On this occasion, the commencement of new direct flights between Narita and Chennai by All Nippon Airways (ANA) was made public, and Ambassador Hiramatsu expressed his confidence that this new connectivity will pave the way for enhanced business and investment opportunities for Japanese companies.

On 6-7 February, Ambassador Hiramatsu was in Kolkata to call on the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Hon. Mamata Banerjee, before attending the West Bengal Global Business Summit 2019. In the plenary session, Ambassador Hiramatsu shared about the Japanese companies' activities and Japan's development cooperation projects, such as the Kolkata Metro and the pump-up water storage hydropower generation plant in Turga.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

STS Forum 4th India-Japan Workshop Convenes

The 4th STS Forum India-Japan Workshop was held on 27th February in New Delhi. The Japanese delegation was headed by former Finance Minister, Mr. Koji Omi. More than 100 policy makers, business leaders and scientists gathered and discussed start-ups, innovation eco-system, and society transformation by Internet of Things (IoT) and Internet of Everything (IoE).



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Japan Further Contributes to Health Sector

For long, Japan has been actively involved in the enhancement of people's health in the global arena. On 30th January, Minister Asari, Deputy Chief of Mission, attended 'Global Appeal 2019', hosted by The Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation in Delhi. The fight to banish stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy has been chiefly led by Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairperson of The Nippon Foundation, who was selected as the recipient of the Gandhi Peace Prize for Year 2018. Dr. Sasakawa was conferred upon the award by the President, H.E. Ram Nath Kovind, in the presence of other dignitaries of India, on 26th February.

On 4th February, Ambassador Hiramatsu attended the inauguration ceremony of Health Tech India 2019, hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), to present Japanese healthcare-related companies which wish to assist in improving livelihoods of the Indian people through their technologies.

On 8th February, Ambassador Hiramatsu delivered a keynote on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) at Global Fund's Preparatory Meeting for the Sixth Replenishment, hosted by India. Ambassador Hiramatsu emphasized that efforts to eliminate HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria can contribute to achieving UHC and reaffirmed Japan's commitment to the promotion of UHC through G20 and TICAD VII, both chaired by Japan this year.



(Photo: Global Fund)



(Photo: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)



(Photo: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)



(Photo: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Ambassador Hiramatsu Visits Karnataka

On 5th February, Ambassador Hiramatsu visited Bengaluru and had a meeting with the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Hon. H.D. Kumaraswamy. In the meeting, Hon. Kumaraswamy welcomed the recent announcement of a Japan Airlines (JAL) non-stop service between Narita and Bengaluru, which will be launched in March 2020. He also thanked Japan's efforts in promoting infrastructure development as well as collaborations in the IT and start-up sphere. *(Also see page 18.)*

On 6th February, Ambassador Hiramatsu attended the inauguration ceremony for Sakata Seed's Bengaluru Innovation Centre. Celebrating the 10 years of operation of Sakata Seed in India, Ambassador Hiramatsu emphasized the importance of investment in the field of agriculture and food processing by Japanese companies for the benefit of Indian farmers' livelihood improvement, food production and food waste management.



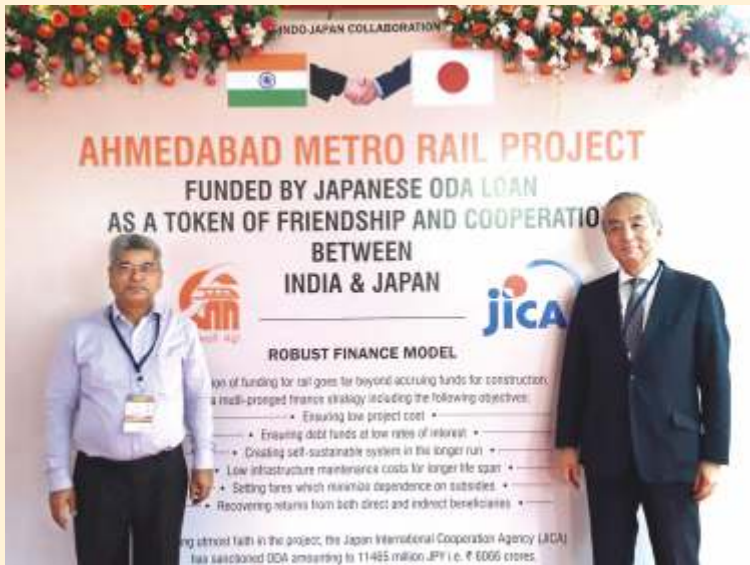
(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Ambassador Hiramatsu Visits Gujarat

Ambassador Hiramatsu visited Gujarat in early March. On 4th March 2019, Ambassador Hiramatsu attended the inauguration of Ahmedabad Metro's first section between Vastral Gam and Apparel Park of the East-West Corridor (6.5 km) with 6 stations, in the presence of the Prime Minister, Hon. Narendra Modi, and the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Hon. Vijay Rupani. Japan has supported the construction of Ahmedabad Metro with its loans as well as through Japanese corporations' railway technologies and safety management skills.

On the same day, Ambassador Hiramatsu visited the site of the proposed Vadodara Railway Station and the Training Institute proposed in the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project. The Training Institute will nurture the Indian personnel, tapping on Japan's vast technologies and experiences in high speed rail, or Shinkansen.

On this tour, Ambassador Hiramatsu also went to Halol to visit the manufacturing factory of TOTO, one of the world's top sanitary ware manufacturers, known for the electric-powered flush toilet, "Washlet", and other bathroom & kitchen facilities. Ambassador Hiramatsu was briefed on the manufacturing process, quality control, and workplace safety of TOTO India, which has been present in India since 2014.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

An Evening of Japanese Food Held

Ambassador Hiramatsu hosted "An Evening with Japanese Food", a promotional event for Japanese food, at the Residence, on 21st February. 16 Japanese restaurants participated as exhibitors and presented a variety of food products, such as sushi, tempura, karaage, teriyaki, ramen, Japanese curry, and so forth, in the presence of Hon. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, and other dignitaries. During the event, the newly-recognized Japanese Food Supporters, certified by the Japanese Government, received a diploma of certification, bringing the number in India to 36. The event also enjoyed the participation of Japanese Tea Ambassador from Japan, Ms. Hiroe Miki, who held a traditional Japanese green tea ceremony demonstration and spread the charms of Japanese tea.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Ambassador Hiramatsu Visits the North East

Ambassador Hiramatsu visited the States of Mizoram and Tripura in early March. On 7th March, Ambassador Hiramatsu called on the Chief Minister of Mizoram, Hon. Zoramthanga, and discussed issues such as road connectivity, utilization of bamboo resources, disaster risk reduction, and people-to-people exchanges. On 8th March, Ambassador Hiramatsu visited Agartala, the state capital of Tripura, which shares the border with Bangladesh, and saluted border control officers. Ambassador Hiramatsu delivered an address on Japan-India as well as Japan-North East relations at Tripura University, and more than 1,000 students and faculties packed the auditorium. At the end of his visit to Agartala, Ambassador Hiramatsu called on the Chief Minister of Tripura, Hon. Biplab Kumar Deb, and discussed the potential of cooperation with Japan in areas such as food processing and connectivity enhancement.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Honda Y-E-S Award Ceremony Held

On 4th February, Ambassador Hiramatsu attended the 12th Honda Y-E-S Award Ceremony held at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi, organized by the Honda Foundation. On the occasion, Ambassador expressed his wish that all awardees will continue to study, research, and eventually contribute to the strengthening of the bilateral relationship between Japan and India, which has been flourishing greatly in recent years.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Japanese Ambassador Hosts Conferment Ceremony of Decoration on Professor Manjushree Chauhan

On 11th February, Ambassador Hiramatsu hosted the Ceremony of the Conferment of 'The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette' upon Professor Manjushree Chauhan, former Professor of the Centre for Japanese Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Professor Chauhan was decorated by the Emperor of Japan, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to developing Japanese language education and promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and India.

Ambassador Hiramatsu, in his congratulatory remarks, expressed his heartfelt appreciation on the steady efforts made by Professor Chauhan for nearly 30 years to develop Japanese language education in India. Professor Chauhan, in her acceptance speech, modestly recalled her long journey to promote Japanese language education in India as well as the mutual understanding between India and Japan. She expressed her sincere gratitude to her family, former teachers and colleagues, among others, for extending their immense assistance during her teaching career.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

17th Graduation Ceremony of MOSAI Institute of Japanese Language Held

On 16th February, Minister Kenko Sone attended the 17th Graduation Ceremony of the MOSAI Institute of Japanese Language, which was held in Mount Carmel School - Senior Wing, New Delhi. On the occasion, Minister Sone expressed his wish that all graduating students will continue to learn Japanese, and eventually contribute to further strengthening the bilateral relationship between Japan and India, which has been flourishing greatly in recent years.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

31st All India Japanese Language Speech Contest Held

On 16th March, the 31st All India Japanese Language Speech Contest was held by Mombusho Scholars Association of India (MOSAI), in collaboration with the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, supported by the Embassy of Japan and Japanese Association, New Delhi. Ambassador Hiramatsu, who joined the contest as the Chief Guest, highly appreciated the quality of the speeches and the efforts made by each competitor to come to the contest. He also encouraged them to continue learning Japanese.



(Photos: Embassy of Japan, New Delhi)

Updates from Consulates

KOLKATA



Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India, addressing the Japan Session at the Country Hall, literally full of audience, during the **5th Edition of Bengal Global Business Summit 2019**, on 7th February 2019, at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, New Town, Kolkata. Japan session was attended by Mr. Indrajit Sen, President of BCCI, and Mr. Debashis Sen, Additional Chief Secretary, Information Technology & Electronics Department, Government of West Bengal, and the hall was packed with many business representatives.



People watching an exhibition on the architecture of Japan, titled **Built Environment: An Alternative Guide to Japan**, organised by the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata, in collaboration with The Japan Foundation. The exhibition portrayed the constructions within Japan through photographs, texts and videos to introduce buildings, civil engineering projects and landscapes from the modern era of the 19th century to the present. It was held at Abanindranath Tagore Gallery, Rabindranath Tagore Centre, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Kolkata, from 15th February to 26th February.



Mr. Masayuki Taga, Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, with the representatives of Sundarban Social Development Centre from West Bengal, and Society for Environment and Social Awareness from Jharkhand, at the **Grant Contract Signing Ceremony** held at the residence of Consul General of Japan, on 18th January. The NGO, Sundarban Social Development Centre, will be using the grant amount for procuring medical equipment, while the other NGO, Society for Environment and Social Awareness, will be using the grant amount for constructing a vocational training centre.



Art enthusiasts looking at the paintings by Japanese artist, Ms. Misako Shin-e, displayed at an exhibition titled **Japanese Expressions**, organised by Kolkata Centre for Creativity and Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata. This exhibition, which was a part of Kolkata Festival 2019, was held at Kolkata Centre for Creativity, from 3rd February to 10th February. The works of the Japanese artist were highly appreciated by the art lovers of Kolkata.

(Photos: Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata)

CHENNAI



On 16th January, the Consul General of Japan in Chennai, Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, visited a factory of Nitta Gelatin India Limited at Kochi, Kerala. He had an interaction session with managers of Nitta Gelatin India Limited and participated in tree planting ceremony.

(Photo: Nitta Gelatin India Limited)



On 16th January, the Consul General of Japan in Chennai, Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, conferred the Imperial Decoration on Mr. Edgar Morris (4th from right), Former Chairman, Alumni Society of AOTS Kerala.

(Photo: Consulate General of Japan in Chennai)



On 2nd February, “Japanese Night” was organized by the Consulate General of Japan in Chennai, in association with various Japanese Language Schools / Institutions, to promote Japanese Language education.

(Photo: ABK-AOTS Dosokai Tamil Nadu Center)



On 25th February, the Consul General of Japan in Chennai, Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, visited a factory of Toshiba Transmission & Distribution Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd., at Hyderabad, Telangana.

(Photo: Consulate-General of Japan in Chennai)

MUMBAI



The Consul General of Japan in Mumbai, Mr. Ryoji Noda, welcomed the guests at **His Majesty The Emperor's Birthday Reception** held on 20th December 2018. The reception was held at the Taj Mahal Hotel and was attended by diplomats from various countries and many dignitaries from their respective fields.



The Consul General of Japan in Mumbai, Mr. Ryoji Noda, attended the **inauguration ceremony of 'The Project for Installing Water Purifying Systems to Supply Potable Water in Eight Villages of Four Sub-divisions in Banaskantha'** on 5th February, at Banaskantha. The ceremony was attended by approximately 300 people including the staff of Lokseva Shikshan Trust and villagers from neighbouring villages. Through this project, Reverse Osmosis water purification systems aimed at preventing water borne diseases, and thus improving health status of the villagers, were procured.



The Consul General of Japan in Mumbai, Mr. Ryoji Noda, was the Chief Guest as well as a judge at the **31st West Zone Japanese Language Speech Contest** held in Pune, on 9th February. The Speech Contest was conducted by The Indo-Japanese Association, Pune, with the support of Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai, The Japanese Association, Pune, and the Mumbai Japanese School.



The Consul General of Japan in Mumbai, Mr. Ryoji Noda, attended the **inauguration of the Japanese Film Festival in Mumbai** on 11th January. The Film Festival is conducted every year by the Japan Foundation, screening Japanese films with different and varied themes. This year's Film Festival also had the producer of 'One Cut of the Dead', Mr. Koji Ichihashi, as well as the actors of the film interacting with the audience.

(Photos: Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai)

BENGALURU



Japan Habba 2019, the annual Indo-Japanese cultural extravaganza, held on 3rd February, gathered a crowd of 6300 people. Cosplay Contest, organized by the Consulate General of Japan in Bengaluru, and Anime Quiz was introduced for the first time in addition to various other cultural programs like Japanese singing Indian songs, performing Indian dance, plays, and vice versa. There was also a plethora of stalls of Japanese food, traditional games, travel fair, crafts, study/job opportunities, Japanese Sado & Yukata wearing, etc.



The Consulate General of Japan in Bengaluru hosted **The 5th Japanese Speaking Meet** on 17th February. With over 170 participants, the venue buzzed with not only Japanese speaking Indian nationals and Japanese nationals, but also with Cosplayers, adding to the festivities with a variety of performances and stalls of Japanese food, sake, and also Japanese language recruitment firms. The highlight of this event was introduction and demonstration of “Kendama” by a team from Toyota Technical Training Institute.



During his visit to Bengaluru, **Ambassador of Japan to India, Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu**, met the **Hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka, Mr. H.D. Kumaraswamy**, on 5th February. They exchanged views on various matters like tourism, Bengaluru's infrastructure challenges, expansion of Japanese industries, cooperation in the fields of IT and start-ups, popularizing Japanese language education, and more.



Mr. Tetsuya Onuki (Managing Executive Officer), Mr. Shinya Naruse (Country Manager) and Mr. Shojiro Ito (Supervisor) from Japan Airlines Co. Ltd. (JAL) visited Bengaluru on 21st February. Consul General of Japan in Bengaluru, Mr. Takayuki Kitagawa, along with the **delegation from JAL met Mr. H.D. Kumaraswamy (Hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka)** and Mr. Gaurav Gupta (Principal Secretary to Government - IT BT and Science & Technology) to discuss about the daily Bengaluru-Narita flight service scheduled to start next year, its impact, and tourism between the state of Karnataka and Japan.

(Photos: Consulate General of Japan in Bengaluru)

Exploring Japan: Summer Fun in Japan

Summer in Japan is full of fireworks, festivals and fun in the sun. Across much of Japan, the summer is characterized by hot and humid weather. Taking refuge from the heat, many locals opt for cooler climates near the ocean or up in the mountains. As the heat begins to wane in the evenings, people partake in regional fireworks displays, traditional song and dance, and centuries-old festivals.

Shown here are some beautiful photographs based on the theme of summer, received as entries for THE CLICK! JAPAN PHOTO CONTEST 2018 held last year. (Please see October 2018 issue of 'Japan Calling'.) We look forward to your entry to THE CLICK! JAPAN PHOTO CONTEST 2019, which will be announced soon!



The underwater treasure I found in Japan

Mr. Aditya Mahajan (Contest Participant)



Picnickers at Fujikawaguchiko, Yamanashi Prefecture

Mr. Avinash Jagtap (Contest Participant)



A deer family enjoying the sun in Nara Deer Park

Mr. Deepak Gandotra (Contest Participant)



Statue of Kusunoki Masashige in Tokyo

Ms. Meenu Kumari (Contest Participant)



Bathing in pure nature at Okinawa Beach

Mr. Siddharth Panda (Contest Participant)



Gazing at the serene waters

Ms. Vaishali Patil (Contest Participant)

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New Delhi 110 001
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Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

306, 3rd Floor, World Mark 2, Asset No. 8
Hospitality District, Aerocity
New Delhi 110 037
Tel: 4352-2900 Fax: 4352-2950
<https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/about/new-delhi.html>

Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

4th Floor, Eros Corporate Tower
Nehru Place,
New Delhi 110 019
Tel: 4168-3006 Fax: 4168-3003
<http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/jetro/worldwide/asia/>

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5A, Ring Road,
Lajpat Nagar 4
Near Moolchand Metro Station
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New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)

15th Floor, Hindustan Times House
18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Connaught Place
New Delhi 110 001
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http://www.nedo.go.jp/english/india_office_index.html

Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)

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Key in "www.in.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html" to access the website of the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi.

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